

Important Notice and Request for Information from the Standing Committee on Guardians Ad Litem and Attorneys for the Minor Child in Family Matters

Good Day,

On January 1, 2017, the Standing Committee on Guardians Ad Litem and Attorneys for the Minor Child in Family Matters was created pursuant to Connecticut Practice Book Rule 25-61A. As part of its charge, the Committee shall, in accordance with Section 25-61A(b)(4), “Annually review and approve a list of individuals deemed eligible for appointment as a guardian ad litem or attorney for the minor child in family matters.” You are receiving this email because your name appears on the active list of persons eligible to serve as a guardian ad litem or attorney for the minor child.

In order to accomplish its annual review, the Committee is requesting that everyone on the active list of persons eligible to serve as a guardian ad litem or attorney for the minor child provide the following information **on or before Friday December 20, 2019** by affirmatively replying to the following:

- That you are an attorney in good standing, licensed to practice law in the State of Connecticut by the Judicial Branch, or are a mental health professional licensed by the Connecticut Department of Public Health and in good standing in the areas of clinical social work, marriage and family therapy, professional counseling, psychology or psychiatry;
- That you do not have a criminal record;
- That you do not appear on the Department of Children and Families’ central registry of child abuse and neglect.

Also, every 3 years, Connecticut Practice Book Rules 25-62(c)(1) and 25-62A(c)(1) state that individuals deemed eligible to be appointed as a guardian ad litem or attorney in family matters must “certify that they have completed twelve hours of relevant training within the past three years, three hours of which must be in ethics”.

In addition to your reply to the information above that is requested annually, please certify that you are in compliance with the requirements of Practice Book Rules 25-62(c)(1) and 25-62A(c)(1). Failure to comply with this requirement may result in your name being removed from the active list of persons eligible to serve as a guardian ad litem or attorney for the minor child effective January 1, 2020.

If you completed the most recent GAL/AMC training course that was offered in June 2018, you are excused from this requirement for this year, but still must provide the information above that the Committee requests annually.

The Committee reserves that right to audit the records of any individual certifying their

compliance to verify that the requisite number hours of training have been completed and that the training is relevant to the work of a GAL/AMC. Records for this review period must be made available upon request until the next three year review period has been completed.

All information requested, as well as any questions, can be emailed to GALAMCFA@jud.ct.gov.

Please be advised that this request for updated information is not satisfied through the annual update of your attorney registration with the Statewide Grievance Committee.

If you have a contract with the Division of Public Defender Services to serve as a GAL/AMC at state rates, paid by the State of Connecticut, you still must provide the updated information requested in this email in addition to any requirements the Division has placed on you pursuant to your contract with them.

Failure to provide the information listed above by Friday December 20, 2019, as requested, may result in your name being removed from the active list of persons eligible to serve as a guardian ad litem or attorney for the minor child effective January 1, 2020. Any subsequent request to be reinstated to the active list will be handled at the discretion of the Committee.

Thank you for taking the time to provide this important information. For more information about the Standing Committee on Guardians Ad Litem and Attorneys for the Minor Child in Family Matters, please feel free to visit the Committee's webpage at http://www.jud.ct.gov/Committees/GAL_AMC/default.htm.

Your reply by ***Friday December 20, 2019*** is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

The Members of the Standing Committee on Guardians Ad Litem and Attorneys for the Minor Child in Family Matters